
**TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP
of the
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

**March 23, 2010
Minutes**

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP. AN AUDIOCASSETTE TAPE OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.

The Meeting of the Transportation Conformity Working Group was held at the SCAG office in Los Angeles.

In Attendance:

Abrishami, Lori

LACMTA

SCAG

Asuncion, John

Kuo, Ryan

Luo, Rongsheng

Nadler, Jonathan

Sangkapichai, Mana

Sherwood, Arnie

Via Teleconference:

Alvarez, Grace

Behtash, Arman

Brady, Mike

Cacatian, Ben

Gallo, Ilene

Gill, Steve

Krebs, Cindy

MacQueen, Molly

Noch, Michelle

O'Connor, Karina

Odufalu, Olufemi

Swan, Douglas

Wade, Dennis

RCTC

Caltrans, District 12

Caltrans Headquarters

Ventura County Air Pollution Control

Caltrans Headquarters

RCTC

OCTA

STV

FHWA

U.S. EPA, Region 9

Caltrans, District 8

STV

ARB

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1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments.

3.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

3.1 Approval Item

3.1.1 TCWG February 23, 2010 Meeting Minutes

- Ben Cacatian, VCAPCD, was added to the teleconference participant list.

The minutes were approved with the above addition.

4.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

4.1 Review of PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Forms

1) RIV520109

It was determined that this was not a POAQC.
(*FTA concurrence was received after the meeting*).

4.2 RTIP Update

John Asuncion, SCAG, reported the following:

- 2008 RTIP Amendment #33 received federal approval on March 17.
- The public hearing for 2008 RTIP Amendment #34, consistent with 2008 RTP Amendment #3, was held on March 16 and no comments were received. The Amendment will be taken to the SCAG Regional Council (RC) in April for approval.
- Amendment #39 received Caltrans and federal approval.
- SCAG staff is processing Administrative Modification Amendments #40 and #41.
- SCAG staff continues working closely with the County Transportation Commissions on the development of 2011 FTIP.

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4.3 RTP Update

Ryan Kuo, SCAG, reported the following:

- The public hearing for the draft 2008 RTP Amendment #3 was held on March 16 and no comments were received at the hearing. Five written comments were received as of the close of the public review period, and the comments will be addressed in the final Amendment document.
- The Amendment document will be presented to Transportation Committee for approval and RC for adoption on April 1.

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, reported the following:

- The draft of conformity analysis for 2008 RTP Amendment #3 and 2008 RTIP Consistency Amendment #34 was presented to last month's TCWG meeting and also released as part of RTP/RTIP Amendment documents for 30-day public review. No comments were received.
- The final analysis will be presented to Energy and Environment Committee (ECC) for approval and SCAG RC for adoption on April 1.

4.4 Proposed RTP/RTIP Conformity for the 2006 PM2.5 NAAQS

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, reported the following:

- As the new area designations became effective in December 2009, a new conformity determination for the RTP and RTIP is needed for the new 2006 PM2.5 NAAQS by December 14, 2010.
- SCAG staff is proposing two different approaches for the two designated 2006 PM2.5 non-attainment areas: For the South Coast Air Basin, the existing PM2.5 budgets will be used for the budget test; For the non-attainment area of Imperial County, the interim test will be used because there are no PM2.5 budgets for the area.
- Based on the conformity analysis for the 2008 RTP Amendment #3, the necessary emission analysis for the new conformity determination has almost been completed. SCAG staff planned to have the 30-day public review between mid-April to mid-May. The analysis will be presented to TCWG meeting in April, to EEC for approval in June, and to RC for adoption in July. If RC adopts the conformity analysis, the conformity determination will be forwarded to FHWA and FTA for approval.

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4.5 SB 375 Update

Jonathan Nadler, SCAG, reported the following:

- SCAG and other MPOs around the state are in the process of developing proposed regional targets. SCAG staff continues working on scenario sensitivity exercises and getting inputs and feedbacks from around the region.
- ARB will release the draft regional targets in June. SCAG staff will provide a draft suggested target to ARB and is tentatively scheduled to have a workshop with the RC by the end of April.
- Sub-regions are allowed to take delegation to develop their own subregional Sustainable Community Strategies (SCS) and then feed the subregional SCS to the regional process. Orange County COG and Gateway Cities COG were the only two sub-regions that have indicated the desire to take delegation.

4.6 ARB UPDATE

Dennis Wade, ARB, reported the following:

- On March 25, the ARB Board will consider the SCAQMD's PM10 Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan for the South Coast Air Basin.
- ARB is planning to release the EMFAC2010 by the end of this year.

4.7 EPA Update

Karina O'Connor, EPA, reported the following:

- The 2006 PM2.5 NAAQS and the new PM hot-spot quantitative analysis guidance status will be discussed during the Statewide Conformity Working Group Meeting on March 24.

4.8 Air Districts Update

Ben Cacatian, VCAPCD, reported the following:

- As part of the Lower Emission School Bus Retrofit and Replacement Program, the Ventura County Unified School District began operating the first diesel electric plug-in hybrid school bus last month, the first in the nation. The hybrid school bus is supposed to improve fuel economy by about 30% and reduce emissions by about 40% over conventional gas-powered buses. It was made possible by grants from EPA and VCAPCD.

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5.0 INFORMATION SHARING

- Mike Brady, Caltrans Headquarters, stated that he planned to setup a conference call to discuss the restart of TCM substitution process for the SR60 HOV lane conversion project in Riverside.
- Mr. Brady also announced that the Statewide Conformity Working Group Meeting will be held via teleconference from 10:00 am on March 24, 2010.
- Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, announced that SCAG is planning to enhance the SCAG TCWG website and is asking TCWG members to email him comments and/or wish-lists of improvements to the TCWG website.

6.0 ADJOURNMENT

Rongsheng Luo adjourned the meeting at 11:12 a.m.

The next Transportation Conformity Working Group meeting will be held on April 27, 2010 at the SCAG office in Los Angeles.